

King (W. P.)



Quacks and Quackery in Missouri.

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IN order to present the quack in his true light, let us first see what manner of man the true physician is, so that, by the outlines of his symmetrical character, the former may be made to stand out in all his ugly deformity.

The true physician is a man of good moral character. His conduct is such that, with those who know him best, there is no doubt about it. His acts are the acts of a noble, true and unselfish man, who means to do right not only by himself, but by all with whom he comes in contact. He is a man of knowledge, and is not content with what he already knows, but is constantly and persistently striving to know more. He takes and reads the best literature of his profession, and would at any time stint his stomach or cheat his back of a new coat in order to buy a new book written by one of the masters in the profession. He tries to familiarize himself with every form of disease, and to arm himself with the best weapons with which to meet and vanquish the enemy. As an honest man, he feels it his bounden duty to do this. He feels that if he should do less he would be recreant to his duty and unfaithful to the trust

imposed upon him by his profession. He is a brave man, and is, to all intents and purposes, a born warrior. While he is as tender as a woman with everything that is sick, and that suffers, yet, when occasion requires it, he is as courageous as a lion, and does not shrink from his duty even though his own life be in danger. From the depths of a kind heart, made kinder and tenderer through contact with suffering, he lays his hands kindly and tenderly upon all who are unfortunate and need kindness and pity; and yet, in the discharge of his duties, he can inflict pain in order to save life, and his brave heart does not quail even in the face of defeat and death. He makes no pretension to knowledge that he does not possess, and when he does not know a thing, will admit that he does not. In times of epidemics, when death is upon every hand and the community is being scourged as by fire, while others flee to places of safety and seek refuge where the contagion comes not, he takes his place with his people, and goes quietly where others dare not enter—where the seeds of typhoid, cholera, yellow fever and small-pox are rank in the air; and yet he fears not. Duty with him is everything, and death is preferable to dishonor.

He knows the weaknesses and faults of the people whom he treats, and, like a true man, hides them away from the world in the innermost recesses of his heart, and is not burdened—for secrets are a burden to those only who desire to tell them.

He does his work for the reasonable remuneration that is fixed by his fellows and sanctioned by law, and does not make bargains and collect fees in advance that burden the poor, and for which he may never render adequate services. He does not promise to cure anything and everything in order to get a case; in fact, he promises very little, but does a great deal where to do anything is possible. He is closely identified with everything in his community which goes toward elevating humanity, and which tends to ennoble and dignify human character. In short, the true physician is

an upright and true man ; a worker and a seeker after the good things attainable ; is honest and unselfish, and a doer of good deeds through all his life ; and when he gets old and too frail to work longer, he can sit down with the satisfying thought that he has done all that it was possible for him to have done in his sphere. He meets his fellows with head erect because he is not ashamed, and when death comes he goes,

“ Not, like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approaches his grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

But what shall I say of the quack ? How shall I describe him ? He presents himself in so many different forms that, like the chameleon, he is hard to describe. In order to properly describe him, I shall be compelled to divide him and describe him under different heads.

Webster defines the word quack as follows : “ A boaster ; one who pretends to skill or knowledge which he does not possess.” We give it a much broader meaning than this. We apply the term not alone to the ignorant boaster, but to any man who attempts to practice medicine without being well grounded in the fundamental facts underlying an intelligent practice ; and even when a man is competent, if he is guilty of irregular practices, and resorts to illegitimate methods to obtain a practice, we denounce him as being guilty of quackery.

The gentlemanly quack may or may not be a graduate, but he is a gentlemanly man. He starts out in his professional career with good prospects ; but he is like a wasp—larger when he is born (graduates or begins) than he ever is afterward. He is a person who attains to the full height of his intellectual and professional manhood early in life, and afterward, instead of growing and broadening, he begins to dwarf, and soon becomes professionally mummified. He does not attend medical societies, and does not study ;

never buys a new book, and does not take a medical journal. He does not "believe in medical journals," and thinks that they "do a doctor more harm than good." He soon forgets everything that he ever knew; makes up a jumbled anatomy, physiology and pathology of his own, then goes into a rut and consistently stays there. He will accept your diagnosis without a murmur, although it may overturn all that he has been compelled to say of or do in the case; and when you are gone he goes right back to his own treatment, and sticks to it until the patient dies. He cannot see why the patient did not get well, because about all the people that he ever saw recover did so under that identical treatment. "Bilious attacks" and "malaria" are the favorite diseases of this man. All other diseases he conveniently divides into "lung diseases," "kidney affections," and "liver complaints." For the first he gives compound syrup of squills; for the second, sweet spirits of nitre; and for the third, calomel, podophylin, or nothing, according to the school he represents. When he is not able to locate the disease, he bombards the liver on "general principles." He gives calomel, day in and day out, in obstruction of the "common duct" of the gall-bladder, and diuretics in retention of urine from strictured urethra. This same fellow sits by the bed of the parturient female for four or five days, in cases of cross presentation and difficult labor from any cause, because he "believes in letting nature take its course," and sits around "like a knot on a log" and lets women die from post-partem hemorrhage, because he does not "believe in meddlesome midwifery." This man is a good collector; takes whetstones, fiddles, cows, calves, second-hand furniture, and tow linen and tallow for his pay, and turns it all over to the best advantage without ever discovering that nature cut him out and fitted for a junk-dealer and a ragman.

Perhaps the best thing that can be said for this creature is, that he goes through his whole professional life, and finally dies without discovering the fact that he has killed from ten to twenty people every year.

The smart pretender is a different man from the foregoing. He is a loud man. There is nothing, if you will believe him, that he does not know. He has specifics for everything, and actually cures people, no matter what the disease is. He gets through college cheap, practices medicine cheaper than anybody, and is altogether a cheap man. He gets practice by sending word that he can cure the case, has cured many just like it. He makes a diagnosis off-hand and at long range, without having seen the case or even heard much about it. This man is unfitted by nature for the noble and exalted duties of the physician, because he is shallow, does not know anything, and is incapable of knowing much. He is naturally a coward and a liar, and no coward and liar ever made a good doctor. He seeks practice for the basest and most selfish reasons, and indeed is never actuated by lofty and unselfish motives. This fellow is transparent even to the laity, and is compelled to seek "greener fields and pastures new" quite often. He may take a new place by storm, but he is too weak to "hold the fort" very long.

We have also the professional buzzard. This is the weakly, watery-eyed, red-nosed old scarecrow, who at some time in his early life has gotten hold of several recipes which he considers valuable, and he is therefore induced to give suffering humanity the benefit of them. He is poor and mangy and mean, and hangs upon the outskirts of the profession just as the cayote and the buzzard hang upon the outskirts of a battle-field—picking up whatever he can. He is greasy and pinched and mean; has a breath of benzine and the general odor of unchanged linen. He slinks naturally from the true members of the medical profession, always comes into the drug-store by the back door if he can get in that way, and learns all that he knows about new remedies from the drug-clerk. He cannot write a prescription, and he has a decided weakness for "yarb-medicines," which he gives in the form of "slops and teas." He pours this stuff down his dupes with about the same idea, I im-

agine, that a hired girl pours dish-water down a rat-hole—that of filling a vacuum and killing time. This wretched and dismal old fraud does not do much harm, however, for the reason that the people whom he kills are very much like himself—making better manure when dead than citizens while living.

The advertising quack and swindler is the worst of the lot. He is the black wolf, aye, the Bengal tiger of the profession. He is ignorant as a physician, but not an ignorant man by any means. He is full of shrewdness and cunning, and knows poor, weak human nature like a book. He has within him all the elements that go to make the successful gambler, three-card monte man, or burglar. He may have his little trouble, as all people do, but it is not with his conscience. His office (which is generally a fine one) is a sort of bunko-shop, into which the ignorant and credulous are inveigled and mercilessly swindled. He chooses the practice of medicine as a profession instead of burglary because the law protects him in the one, and does not protect him in the other. His office is hung with forged diplomas, and with pictures representing surgical cases upon which he pretends to have operated, but did not; and his pigeon-holes are full of certificates of cure, written and signed by himself. He knows the value of printers' ink, and uses it liberally. He advertises to cure all diseases, both acute and chronic; and he makes a specialty of diseases of the eye, ear, throat, nose and lungs, diseases of the mind and nervous system, diseases of children, consumption, piles, gynecology, and fits. He fills his own prescriptions to prevent the exposure of his shallow pretenses, and tells his gaping victims that his medicines cost ten dollars per ounce and more, and that he sends to New York, Boston and foreign countries for much of it. He is the discoverer and sole proprietor of the never-failing cancer remedy and world-renowned cure for consumption. He treats pimples, boils and local skin eruptions as cancer. He sets a high price upon his work, and always gets one-half in advance, and, if possible, a bankable note for the remainder.

No age, sex, or condition in life is safe from the wiles of this scoundrel and mountebank. He is master of all the arts by which he can get a hold upon the unfortunate and suffering, and when they are once in his power he is as merciless as a pirate. He will undertake a case of "consumption" at the brink of the grave, and will collect money in advance, and rob widows and orphans with the promise of doing something that he knows he cannot do.

He is, in brief, professionally an ignoramus, naturally sharp, cunning, cruel, a thief, a cowardly robber and a merciless pirate, a murderer and villain so black and damnable that the English language, in its utter weakness, fails to furnish words with which to paint him.

Compared with such a man, thieves, garroters, burglars and train-robbers become decent and respectable. It requires courage of a certain kind to burglarize a house or a bank, and it requires courage of a much higher order to rob a train; but it does not require any courage at all to rob a sick man. It requires nothing but a heart devoid of pity, and a nature supremely selfish and regardless of the rights and interests of others. Sustained by the fact that no law exists by which he may be punished, such a villain, after having won the confidence of his victim by his specious promises, may take the last dollar or the last piece of property, and enjoy his ill-gotten gains to his heart's content, while there is no one to "molest or make him afraid."

Have we, let me ask you, gentlemen, such characters practicing or professing to practice our noble art in this State? It shames me to be obliged to answer such a question in the affirmative. We do not only have such, but the State is full of them. Every county contains them, and in many counties they outnumber the educated and respectable practitioners. The *gentlemanly quacks* first described constitute the largest number. The second and third classes are about equally divided, while the *advertising swindler* is in the minority. Yet this latter class make up in cheek, impudence and general villainy what

they lack in numbers. They frequently travel from place to place, heralding their coming in flaming posters and profuse locals, and they never fail to find victims, even in the most intelligent communities.

In order to ascertain as nearly as possible the true condition of medical practice in this State, I issued on January 1st of this year a printed circular letter, in which the following questions were asked:

1. How many people are practicing medicine in your county?

2. How many men? How many women?

3 (a). How many belong to the regular school?

(b). How many belong to the Eclectic school?

(c). How many belong to the Homœopathic school?

4. How many of the number practicing do you regard as incompetent and unworthy?

5. How many are known to be or are suspected of producing abortions?

(a). How many men?

(b). How many women?

6. How many graduates of reputable schools in your county?

(a). How many men?

(b). How many women?

7. How many of the number practicing do you regard as persons of grossly immoral character?

(a). How many men?

(b). How many women?

8. How many deaths (approximate) do you think occur annually in your county in consequence of the neglect, ignorance and incompetence of these incompetent and unworthy practitioners?

9. Approximate as near as you can to the amount of money collected from the people of your county by local and by traveling and advertising quacks?

Please write me a statement of any cases of death from the incompetence of the attending physician, and also of

extortion of money with the promise to cure cancer, consumption, &c. Also give me any expressions of said quacks, thus exposing their ignorance, which may be used for the purpose of making quackery appear ridiculous.

Of the 114 counties in Missouri 102 responded, and by comparing populations with other counties in the same region of the State I have made what I deem to be a fair average answer for the other 12 counties. I find from these reports that there are 4,834 *people* practicing medicine in this State. Of these 4,679 are men and 155 are women. The different schools are represented as follows: Regular school, 3,453; Eclectic school, 581; Homœopathic, 217; Non-descript, 583. There are 2,546 who are graduates of reputable schools. Of these 2,526 are men and 20 are women.

There are 269 known to be or suspected of producing abortions. Of these 230 are men and 39 are women. There are 1,904 who are deemed, by competent judges in such matters, to be incompetent and unworthy to represent the noble and high calling of our profession. There are 452 of this number who are considered to be persons of immoral character. Of these 318 are men and 34 are women.

Gentlemen, this is a fearful record. But this is not all. From the ignorance and incompetence of these so-called doctors 5,570 people are supposed to die annually in this State—5,570 persons whose lives might have been saved by the timely aid and intelligent interference of a man of knowledge, skill and courage. My own impression is that this estimate is much too low.

These ignorant and incompetent persons (and, in many instances, villainous robbers) are estimated to have collected from the people of this State \$1,184,000 each year. Taking the number reported to me as quacks and giving them \$600 each, the amount foots up \$1,142,400. At \$1,000 each (and many of them get three times that sum) it will make \$1,900,400 which the people pay for ignorant and incompetent service in the times of their greatest need—which they pay in many instances for being either robbed

or ruthlessly butchered or for both. The people actually pay men who stand by and see them bleed to death from accidents—the attendant being too ignorant to tie an artery ; or poor mothers are permitted to flood to death without help while the stupid asses who attend them stand by and do nothing because they know not what to do. But there is another serious feature in these reports. There are 269 who are known to be or suspected of producing abortions. This number is also, perhaps, too small. Giving to each of these thirty infants a year and you have 8,070 children destroyed before they are born. Comment on such statistics cannot possibly add anything to the horror of the statement. In answer to my tenth question, or request rather, I have the following curious mixture of things:

From Southwest Missouri a Doctor writes :

“A young man recently located in a small town in our county and began practice. He claimed that he had registered in Saline county and had since lost his diploma. The fact of his losing so many people with ordinary ailments caused the Prosecuting Attorney to write, and he soon ascertained that the fellow had lied. He was accordingly arrested. He put up one hundred and ten dollars for his appearance at court. He said that he had a diploma, a skeleton and many other things at Marshall, Mo., and started a man with a team after them. He also sent teams for lumber to a railroad town, eighty miles away, giving the men a package which he claimed contained a check for ten thousand dollars. He gave them this with the injunction not to open it until they reached the town. The package contained an order for ten dollars' worth of lumber on a man who could not be found. The ruse enabled the rascal to procure bondsmen and to lift his \$110, which he did, and left the country before the return of the teams. He is probably practicing somewhere in Missouri to-day.”

Another writes:

“I can now think of only one case of cancer where sixty dollars were collected, and two of consumption where \$100

was collected in one case and \$150 in the other. In all of these cases the quack promised a cure, got the money and the patients died."

Another writes: "I have seen a well-marked case of abscess treated for hernia for weeks, and I have also seen women standing on their head to cure *prolapsus uteri*."

Another: "I know of many cases where people are swindled out of their heads money by the promise to cure 'consumption,' 'cancer,' etc."

Another: "A quack, who had been sent for in my absence to see a case of *lumbago* and *sciatica*, stood by while I was giving the man a hypodermic injection of morphia, and, without being asked his opinion, stated that it was a case of passage of gallstone and insisted on large doses of sweet oil (and he was a small-dose man too), as he said, 'to lubricate the liver.'"

Another writes: "The curse of our profession in this part of the State is ignorance and incompetency. We are also regularly invaded by traveling quacks from a neighboring State, who promise to cure cancer, consumption and chronic catarrh; herpes, hepatitis and hemorrhoids, on the old plan of one-half down and the remainder when cured. I could give you many cases of a promise to cure *phthisis pulmonalis* in the last stage—some almost in *extremis*—when large sums were collected and the patient died."

From Southwest Missouri: "An old practitioner here said to me that 'Dover's Powder was a favorite remedy with him, as it would produce a gentle *dioporefus* and had a soothin' effect on the *mucous membrane of the brain*.' I met another in consultation in a case of spitting of blood from vicarious menstruation and I suggested this as my view of the case. 'Yes,' said the Doctor, 'the blood is stopped in the womb and forced through the follopian tubes into the lungs.'"

From the Northwest: "Three cases of tuberculosis treated by a quack for 'liver complaint.' He said that if he could just get the liver to act they would get well.

They all died in due time. One case of epithelioma of the lip and one of scirrhus of the breast treated by a female cancer doctor. The former case has been with her four months and the latter two months, and they have both come home to die, after suffering the horrors of the damned, the end being hastened in each instance by the arsenical paste applied by this female fraud. The constitutional treatment was clover tea. After applying the paste to the breast and producing a slough, there succeeded a fungus which emitted a terrible odor. The Doctress told the patient that 'her courses had gone to her breast,' and if this had not occurred she could have cured her. She says she has cured the epithelioma of the lip, but a seed wart has come in its place and her paste has no power over seed warts."

Another physician, who reports eighty persons practicing medicine in his county, says:

"There are not more than ten out of the number practicing who are not, in the strictest sense, quacks, none of whom could be depended on in a case requiring the exercise of knowledge, skill and courage."

Another gives me the details of the death of a woman from an abortion produced by a man and his wife, who, by the way, did not pretend to practice medicine, but made a specialty of abortion. They did their work with a stick with a pewter ferrule on the end of it. He also sends me the following letter as a specimen of the literary attainments of a man in full practice in this county:

"Mr. postmaster please send my male to the turn back post office if you please sir any is in the office for me Dr. J. R. G. or send to Dr. James R. G."

Another writes: "A quack, who is practicing in this county, on being asked what blood-heat was, replied, 'from 110 to 120 degrees.' The same man being asked what ailed an old gentleman whom he had just visited, replied '*cholera infantum*.'"

From one of the most populous cities in the State I get the following: "A case of uterine cancer was treated by

a female cancer doctor, the paste used being equal parts of clover blossoms and the ashes of red corn-cobs, these ingredients being boiled down to a paste. After removing the paste a cornmeal poultice was applied every hour for nine days. In a case of bronchitis from measles the doctress prescribed a tea made from dirty socks — three pairs per day being used. They used up all the dirty socks in the neighborhood, but the child died notwithstanding this unique treatment."

Another gives me the following points illustrative of the condition of the profession in his county :

"1. A woman who had eclampsia in a former labor was treated to prevent a recurrence of this trouble at her next labor. She was given podophyllin until an exhausting diarrhoea was brought on. Anemia followed by tuberculosis was the result, and the woman died at the eighth month.

"2. A doctor said that 'as soon as the *lochia* ceased to flow through the mouth, and were established through the vagina, the convulsions would cease.' She had bitten her tongue!

"3. A doctor gave twelve bottles of medicine at \$1.00 per bottle to cure falling of the womb.

"4. A doctor here practices gynecology with a stick of caustic and a Babcock pessary. He never has anything but 'ulceration' and 'falling of the womb.'

"5. Another said that fluid extract of valerian was made from white walnuts, and that strychnia, arsenic and corrosive sublimate were different degrees of the same poison.

"6. A doctor tied the umbilical cord around the mother's thigh to keep it from going back."

Another, who is down on country specialists, writes : "I know one of those fellows who took the eye for his specialty, and made two people as blind as Bartimeus. Being dissatisfied with his success at this end, he concluded to try the other, and so chose piles and obstetrics. He injected carbolic acid into what he took for a hæmorrhoidal

tumor, and sloughed out the rectum. He lacerated the perineum in his first obstetrical case, and in the next case, when the child's head was born, he threw the bed clothes over the woman's head! The doctor thought he just would see what presentation it could be. The lookers-on were sore appalled. The patient swore and the baby squalled. I was called in consultation once with one of these fellows in a case of hemorrhage during labor from placenta prævia, and found the woman pulseless, with a foetling presentation (the feet having been born several hours), and the woman had taken one ounce of tincture of ergot, and the doctor was waiting for the ergot to expel the child. This same nincompoop called on me to operate in a case of strangulated hernia, which he said he had tried for two days to reduce by taxis. Before I got ready to start a red-headed boy rode up to my office and said: 'You doctors needn't come. Bill only had a bile, and it's busted.'

Another says: "Our county is imposed upon by traveling and local quacks to a criminal extent."

Another writes: "A doctor with whom I was called to consult rubbed a solution of plumbi acetat. on the woman's abdomen, and shortly afterward pulled up the clothing, and, showing the husband a discharge from the vagina, said: 'There, now! don't you see? The medicine is absorbed already.' Our county is literally overrun and cursed with quacks."

From the same county: "This county is literally flooded with the worst and most ignorant set of scoundrels that ever disgraced the name of medicine. One man proposes to perform splenotomy in all cases of enlargement of the spleen. He promises to cure anything for a stipulated sum, but always gets his fee in advance. Two deaths have been produced quite recently from ordinary and superficial burns, the quack in attendance enveloping the patient in strong home-made soap in one instance, and in the other using strong ammoniacal liniment. Three others in one family died from gastritis produced by nitrate of silver, given in

powder in perhaps ten-grain doses; the attending physician excusing himself by saying that 'he thought nitrate of silver a good remedy in dysentery, and concluded that he would cut it short;' and he did. It would take a volume in which to record all the mischief done by the heartless scoundrels who infest this part of the state."

From North Missouri: "The estimate of deaths from the ignorance of the attending physician cannot well be placed too high. An old man suffering from a fibro-cystic tumor of the post-cervical region fell into the hands of one of these fellows with a never-failing remedy. Within a few days a large cavity existed at the former site of the tumor, and the unfortunate man was seized with convulsions and died. The quack excused himself by saying that 'the man was doing well, the tumor was gone, and the sore was in fine condition, but he would eat pork; gentlemen, he would eat pork. He ate two or three pounds of pork a day, and them worms, which grows so extensive in pork, pizened his system, and he died from elongated convulsions.'"

This from South Missouri:

"There is a man in our county who demands enormous sums for the cure of cancer, consumption, etc. He extorts his living in this way from the credulous and afflicted. I was once called to see a man whose whole face had been covered by a caustic paste, put on by this mountebank. The entire face was ruined in natural expression. I wish that our legislators could see this man and know all the facts concerning his case."

This from Southwest Mo.: "A quack in our county gave a woman twenty grains of sulphate of morphia in twelve hours in a case of passage of biliary calculus. He gave three and four grains at a dose, notwithstanding the fact that he is a small dose man. This same fellow poisoned a woman by giving two minims of Fowler's solution of arsenic every fifteen minutes in a case of malarial fever. The same cold-blooded murderer treated a young girl, aged fif-

teen, for 'swelled womb,' and gave vaginal injections. In a post mortem of the case I found ulceration and perforation of the transverse colon. We have a cancer doctor who classified naevi and all innocent growths as cancer. The quacks here call all diseases of the lungs 'lung fever.' More than two-thirds of those practicing in our county belong to this ignorant class, and there is scarcely one amongst them who can write his name without running his tongue out!"

From Northwest Mo.: "We also have our cancer doctor, who undertakes anything for a fee—in advance. He agreed to bring sight to two children that were born blind, for \$100—\$5 in advance, but they died early. He claims to have discovered the use of electricity in medicine while sojourning amongst a band of Indians. He defines fever to be an 'ulceration of the liver.' His invariable prescription is, a jug of gin—any size—with some roots from the pockets of his ancient overcoat. A quack in our county treated a case of pregnancy with electricity, for 'floating tumor,' and would, perhaps, have relieved the lady if her womb had not been stronger than his battery. This same man put a lady in a pack and up-ended her to perform version. His bacon was saved by another doctor." Another from the Northwest:

"An itinerant quack from one of our populous cities put a boy in a plaster of Paris jacket, *à la* Sayre, for Pott's disease—the boy's spine having long since been ankylosed and the boy as well as he ever can be. I could repeat examples of the ignorance and extortions of these peripatetic leeches, whose arrogance is only equalled by their ignorance, and whose ignorance is only surpassed by that of the people whom they gull and rob."

Another from Southwest Mo., who reports seventy-five doctors in his county, twenty-five of whom he sets down as quacks, says: "Typhoid fever, chestnut chills, streffen of the eye, octave nerve, and getting the mucus off the membrane (the last three from an oculist), broncheaties and

new money are technicalities too common, perhaps, to be of use to you."

From North Missouri:

"We have a graduate in our county who is advertising a cancer cure—sure cure. I have known these traveling and advertising fellows to get as much as \$50 per day for services that were utterly worthless. In a case of mine, in which I had diagnosed cancer of the stomach, and another in the last stage of consumption, one of these quacks called to see them, and promised a speedy cure. He obtained about \$33 from each of them, and left. For the case of consumption he went into the garden and cut two stramonium stems, and put them through the cork of a quinine bottle for an inhaler. This constituted his treatment of the case."

From the far Southwest: "I knew a quack who was called to see a severe case of paraphymosis, and who treated it with warm poultices, until another doctor was called in, who relieved the strangulation by an incision. Another, who was called to a case of threatened premature labor, gave the lady a quart of ergot tea, and sat up with her all night. But the ergot would not act, and the woman went to full term. This same ignoramus sees worms in all his sick children. He detects a 'worm cough,' a 'worm tongue,' a 'worm fever,' and of 'worm fits' there is an abundance. I was called in a case where a gentleman had cut his hand and had tetanus. The attending donkey called it 'palsy.' The man died; but, unfortunately, the donkey lived."

Another from the Southwest: "Meeting one of my neighboring physicians, I asked him about the health of his neighborhood. 'Oh,' said he, 'sickness is debating.' I asked another if he had any trouble with the prevailing fevers that season. 'Oh, no,' said he, 'I have no trouble at all.' 'Well,' said I, 'Doctor, how do you manage to get along so well?' 'Well,' said he, 'I'll tell you, but I will not tell them d—d quacks out in the country. I take some

soda and put in a little water in one glass, and some acid in another; I then pour them together, and let the patient drink it while it is vesicating.' ”

From North Missouri: “Thousands of dollars are collected annually by resident and itinerant quacks from ignorant and uninformed persons; and, in many instances, people who are well informed on almost any other subject are gulled by them.”

From the same region: “We have a ‘king-cure-all’ here, who practices on the ‘no cure, no pay’ plan. He never cures, but manages to get pretty well paid. He swindled an old Baptist preacher out of \$15. by promising to cure his wife for \$25. He also treated an obstinate case of asthma, and the patient got over that attack, as they always do under anybody’s treatment. The quack, by some kind of jugglery, got a certificate that he had cured the case, although the gentleman did not know that he was signing that kind of a paper. This was published far and wide. The gentleman, who is a man of standing, of a good deal of intelligence about other things, denounced the man, but the mischief had been done, and others will be swindled and tortured through the advertising thus obtained.”

From the Northwest: “A death occurred here recently in the case of a woman who was suffering from an ovarian tumor. The patient was told by the quack that it was a case of ordinary dropsy, and that she could be cured by medication. He administered croton oil. A few months ago it was a good case for an operation. I can safely say that there are now fifty people in our county suffering from curable diseases, but are prevented from submitting to proper treatment by the promises of these quacks, whose course is prompted by their desire to conceal their own ignorance and errors.”

From Southeast Mo.: “There is a quack here who promises to cure consumption. I have never known him to succeed, but he has made a great deal of money by his false pretenses.”

From the Northwest: "A traveling mountebank comes here monthly, taking away large sums of money each time. He leaves his patients in the hands of the most stupendous scalawag that ever disgraced civilization with his presence. He is as ignorant as a mule, and has brass enough to start a brass foundry."

From the same region: "A quack, who represents himself to be from London, England, promised a lady here, who was fifty-six years old and had not menstruated for eighteen years (but she was married to a man much her junior, by whom she was desirous of having children), that he would put her in condition, *i. e.*, cause her to become pregnant for two hundred dollars. He got the money, but the lady did not get the baby!"

From Central Missouri: "A practitioner in this county said to me that one of his patients 'had a debating fever, had got *consalved*, and had now collapsed.' This is a sample of expressions heard so often that I do not charge my memory with them."

From North Missouri: "An old, wooden-legged quack, who once practiced here, used to tell his patients to take their medicine in the 'usilage of slippery elm.' A quack here treated an abscess of the breast for cancer, and collected \$87 for his services. Another inverted the uterus in removing the placenta. After inverting it he pulled at it for a while, and then left the woman to die. She lived five years, and finally died from hemorrhage. Another quack here proposed to remove cataract from the eye in one night by the application of medicine. Another tried to apply the obstetrical forceps without opening the blades. Another physician and myself removed an exostosis from the great toe, which a cancer doctor had pronounced a 'rose cancer,' and had agreed to cure it for seventy dollars."

From the Northwest: "I am sorry to say that our town and county are full of quacks, who promise to cure anything and everything, and, in many cases, tell the patient that they knew his trouble before they saw him. For the

last ten years men here have promised to cure cancer, consumption, etc. A gentleman here was treated by a quack with the usual story of 'I know my remedies are having the desired effect, and by spring go West and you will be well.' In the spring, six feet in the ground, and \$300 in the the quack's pocket, ends the story. The same quack went to see a young lady, and promised to have her riding out for her health within ten days. Left her, and within ten minutes was recalled to find her dead. In a consultation in a case of protracted labor, the attending physician says he is worn out; believes the woman is going to give birth to a monster, and asks the consulting physician to give him a rest. Consulting physician finds a breech presentation, with scrotum as large as a teacup and black. A little turn—adapting diameters to diameters—and the child is born. Deaths from post-partum hemorrhage, in the hands of ignorant men, are more common here than from any other cause."

From the Southeast: "There is a man in our county who was a preacher before he came here, and who claims to be a graduate of Jefferson Medical College. When the law of 1874 went into force he went before the clerk and made oath to this effect, which, upon investigation, proved to be false. He is a quack, a great liar, and is generally unreliable. One quack in our county has a battery, with which he claims to extract mercury from the systems of people who have taken it, and has thereby extracted large sums of money from many ignorant and credulous persons. The parties operated on, said that they knew he could extract the mercury, as claimed, for the doctor had shown it to them in the liquid in the box."

From Southeast Missouri: "Case 1. Female, aged 60, chronic rheumatism; promise to cure for \$50; no cure.

"Case 2. Male, aged 60; cancer of ascending colon; promised to cure in three months. Result, death in ten days.

"Case 3. Male, aged 45; promise to cure. Result, death. Fee, \$100.

"Case 4. Primipara; death of both mother and child from ignorance of the attending physician.

"Case 5. Primipara; cross presentation. Death of child from fracture of femur and dislocation of spine from reckless manipulation.

"Case 6. Multipara; vertex presentation; in labor seven days, when forceps were resorted to, the doctor being assisted by a blacksmith. Death of both mother and child."

From same region: "A quack came into our county, who had specifics for consumption, cancer, etc., and everything else. He dug out a wet weather spring and found wonderful medicinal properties in the water; scooped up about a thousand dollars by this deception and left for parts unknown."

From Northwest Missouri: "A quack had occasion to use a catheter on a lady recently confined. In the absence of something better he put three pieces of goose quill together and introduced them, but removed only one piece, the other two escaping into the bladder. But he was a man of resources; he put the lady on nitro-muriatic acid to dissolve the quills. Solution failing to take place within a certain time, and her suffering increasing, a surgeon was called in, who dilated the urethra, cut the quills in two (they were cross-wise, with ends imbedded), and removed them."

In a neighboring village, a practitioner, claiming to represent two different schools, had a case of face presentation, which, he said, became arrested. He bent a piece of fence wire into a hook, and assisted nature by delivering a living child with ruptured symphysis mentis, and badly lacerating the soft parts of the mother. The child was still living at last reports, but is badly mutilated.

A man practicing in this county is the agent of the Physio-Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati. He has had sub-agents running over this country selling their diplomas—the terms being an examination before him, and the payment of a fee of \$80. Some of these diplomas are regis-

tered in our county. I wrote Dr. E. B. Stevens, editor of the *Obstetrical Gazette*, and learned that they have no college, and give no lectures, but are chartered by the State of Ohio, and make the sale of bogus diplomas a business.

From the same county: "The only female physician registered in our county was called to see a lady who was suffering from hemorrhage of the kidney. The doctress stated that she knew all about it—her father had the same disease—hemorrhage of the prostate gland. A quack here opened the *caput succedaneum* several inches with a pair of scissors, supposing it to be the bag of waters. Another fastened a piece of wood in the *penis* to cure stricture. Such things are of common occurrence here."

From the Northwest: "A quack put a blister over the dorsal region of the spine, and said to me that he had 'put a blister over the origin of the pneumogastric nerve.'"

From Central Missouri: "A doctor, in consultation, stated, 'I gave her a little turpentine, as her bowels were somewhat gastric.'"

Another: "A quack told a gentleman who had a synovitis of the knee-joint that 'there was a rheumatic worm in the joint eating up the asphaltum.'"

From the Northwest: "I treated a case of diphtheria with paralysis. A quack sent word to the man that he could cure him. The case went into his hands at once. He told the man that the mercury I had given him had caused the paralysis, and the man talked of a suit for malpractice, although I had given but a simple purgative of calomel. The man went away to a distant city for treatment and fell into the hands of a competent physician, who disabused his mind.

I was called in consultation in a case of what had been diagnosed and treated as a case of cerebro-spinal meningitis, and the friends had gathered to see the young woman die. It was a case of hysteria. I was called in another of general dropsy, in which the symptoms pointed strongly to the kidneys as the cause. I asked the doctor if he had ex-

amined the urine. He said he had. 'Was there any albumen in it?' He said he could not tell, but he had looked at it in the vessel several times!' He had gotten into the case by crowding a reputable physician out and promising a speedy cure."

From the Northwest: "We have had a medical man with us who promises to cure nasal catarrh at one sitting. In proof of his power, he *removes the catarrh and places it on a saucer* for the inspection of the delighted patient and friends. A great many of our people were gulled by the scoundrel."

From Southwest Missouri: "Two of our so-called doctors diagnosed an aneurism as abscess and plunged a knife into it, which, of course, resulted in the patient's death. One of the same men pronounced an eczema of the hand, attended with some oedema, to be 'a sort of hydrocele.' A majority of our quacks, say: "Pneumony fever," and set orthography and grammar at defiance. One of them, who was attending an infant with a slight catarrhal fever, saw an increased arterial impulse at the anterior fontanelle, sagely informed its mother that 'the bones of the head were coming apart,' and had her tie a calico rag around its cranium."

Another: "Quite a number of cases of cancer have been treated and death hastened by advertising quacks. The most ridiculous case that I know of was that of a large lipoma — approximate weight, seventy-five pounds. A quack insured a cure for \$100; left some tartarized ointment and then—left himself!"

From the extreme Southeast: "A man, practicing in this county, wrote me to send him 'some cren or tartur, a nuft for a dosh.' An old fellow on the state line, who claims to be a root doctor, has but three medicines in his dispensatory—all made from the same root. He names them respectively *Hibobalorum*, *Lobobahirum* and *Hi-lo-bustem*! One is a cathartic, another an emetic, and the last a 'rank pizen,' which will burst his patients open. He makes the

first by peeling the bark downward, the second by peeling it upward, and the last by peeling it around."

A quack here said that he had to quit giving 'blue powder' (Hydrarg. cum creta), because the druggist *a* adulterated it with mercury! Another quack had a case of strangury, which was not doing as well as he wished, and he put a blister of cantharides upon the glans penis. He gave me, as a reason for so doing, that he thought if anything in the world would make a man p—— a blister on his penis would.

I saw a child a few years ago with half its scalp off and the brain running out. The midwife told me that there was a 'thick skin in the way that kept the labor back, and she cut it away.' I was called to see a woman in labor, who was in the hands of an ignorant midwife. The head was presenting and sloughing, and had been in that position seven days. I was called to a neighboring village a few years ago to see a lady who had cancer of the uterus, vagina and rectum. I met there a distinguished professor from St. Louis. As we went from the house to a hotel I was hailed and called into an alley by a noted quack of the vicinity. He asked me if Dr. H. (of St. Louis) was in the crowd. 'Yes, he was there,' and I pointed him out to the quack. 'Well,' said he, 'did he operate?' 'No.' 'What will he do?' 'Nothing, of course.' He drew from his pocket a bunch of roots and said: 'Here is a root that will cure any disease of the womb. I have been using it for ten years and it never failed, and I use it for all kinds of womb disease.' 'Well,' said I, 'what is it?' 'It's a secret. I discovered it myself. Give this to Dr. H. and tell him if he will pay me heavy I'll tell him the secret, and he can make a fortune out of it.'

I was summoned by telegram a few years ago, to see a tie-brewer who had cut his leg. A medical gentleman, who was visiting me, went along. We found that the man had cut himself superficially, just above the knee, and had cut the anastomotica magna artery partly in twain, and it

had bled persistently for a week. We found a brazen and drunken quack in attendance, who had covered the leg with every conceivable thing that superstition and ignorance could suggest—corn-silk, soot, smut from oats, clay, spider-webs, scraped fabrics, cotton, linen, wool—everything—but all to no effect. The patient was on the verge of death from loss of blood. The quack, who was drunk, took me aside and told me that the man had a good wagon and team, which we could get if we could stop the blood. I resented his insulting proposition by saying with dignity that we would attend to a professional duty first, and consider the financial side of the transaction afterward. I cleared away the mass of stuff, which was from two to four inches in thickness, and by very simple means arrested the hemorrhage. While I was doing this, the quack asked if I was going to tie the jugular. I saw my friend blush. The question was repeated, and I asked: At what point would you suggest the tying of the jugular?' 'Well,' said he, 'anywhere above the knee!'

I was called to see a man in the 'piney woods,' in an adjoining county, who had his hand wounded by a pistol shot. I arrived in the night, and found the wounded man under the influence of whisky, and his lips uttering the worst profanity and vulgarity that I ever heard. On a board table in the room sat a pair of pill bags, and by their side a 48-calibre revolver. On a shelf was a copy of McLean's almanac and an assortment of McLean's medicines. In the morning I extracted the ball, and when I got ready to start, the woman asked my fee, and upon being informed, answered that she did not think that doctors charged each other. 'Is your husband a doctor?' I asked. 'Yes,' said she; 'didn't you see his pill bags? Dr. McLean lets him have all the medicine he wants; and he has mighty good luck, but he don't do any surgery, and he don't give any *calomy* either.'

From Central Mo.: "Our town and county are over-run with ignorant and unprincipled quacks. One, a saloon

keeper, who has defied the law (in selling whisky without license) for years, went to St. Louis as a pile and cancer doctor, and came back with a diploma from a college that has no existence. He has this diploma on file in our county clerk's office, and is advertising extensively—and is duping and swindling poor, sick persons from other counties on a large scale.

Another advertising swindler here (and the meanest and perhaps worst man in the state) is guilty of crimes every day that he lives that ought to send him to the penitentiary. He deliberately castrated one of his male patients, and then took his wife away from him, and has kept her in open and notorious adultery ever since. He is an abortionist, and is so brazen about it that he scarcely tries to conceal the fact. He put a truss on a boy fifteen years old (who had a testicle arrested in the inguinal canal) for hernia; and the poor boy hung around to the lamp posts and vomited for about a week, and then went to a physician, who discovered the real nature of the trouble and removed the truss.

This man took the case of a young lady with consumption in the last stage, and agreed to cure her for seventy-five dollars. He took her to his own house, where she died within ten days; and when her friends came for the body, he made them pay \$100 more before he would give it to them. It would take a volume in which to record the villainous acts of this one man.

We have an old crow-bait here, who can scarcely spell his own name, and who will undertake any kind of a case. He gets the drug clerks to help him make out his prescriptions. One of our physicians overheard the following conversation between a facetious drug clerk and this quack, while the clerk was helping him on one of his prescriptions:

Clerk: "Doctor, I suppose that you have performed a great many surgical operations in your time."

Quack: "Oh, yes, a great many."

Clerk : " Doctor, I have long since desired to find a surgeon who has performed a certain operation—an operation which has only been performed a few times, I believe."

Quack : " What operation is it?"

Clerk : " It is the operation of *abdominal digitalis*!"

Quack : " Oh, yes, I have done that operation twice ; but the doctors in this town will not give me credit for it."

Clerk : " There is another operation that I wish to ask about (and I have no doubt that you have performed it), and that is *aortic regurgitation*."

Quack : " Yes, I have done that too, over at —— town. Oh! I tell you, it's an awful bloody operation."

Gentlemen: I have more of this kind of material ; but you have, perhaps, suffered enough, and I will spare you the statement of other outrageous, disgusting and ridiculous details. I have an object in presenting what I have. I hope, by your consent, to present this same material to another body, which seems to demand facts and details, rather than argument, in order that it shall move.

The condition of things shown is enough to sicken any man who has any regard for the dignity, standing and honor of our profession ; and is sufficient to alarm and appall any person, not a doctor, who is capable of appreciating the danger in which the community is placed, by reason of the presence of so many illiterate and incompetent men in their midst assuming to represent our noble profession, and to take charge of the issues of life and death.

The presence of these ignorant pretenders and swindling rascals is a standing cause of shame and annoyance to every worthy, honest and competent physician ; for, say or do what we will, the people—the great majority of whom do not seem capable of distinguishing between the true and the false in our profession—*will* class us with these creatures, and *will* call upon and beg and importune us to meet them in consultation in cases threatening life, and our refusal to do so often puts us at a disadvantage before a community which has more heart than brains.

"What are you going to do about it?"

This question is the question for you and me to solve. Shall we appeal to the people? We have done this in the past, and are still doing it every day, only to see these same people led astray and humbugged by the flaming advertisements and specious promises of smooth-tongued and unprincipled villains. Shall we appeal to the press? It is useless. While I am a friend of the press, and commend it for the good it has done in educating the masses and working reforms in other directions, yet I am compelled to say that it has been one of the most potent influences in building up and strengthening the hands of quackery. It has heretofore almost unanimously opposed the legislation necessary to rid the state of this great evil. Its columns are both hired and loaned to further the interests of these robbers; and if a man stands in a drug-store for a few weeks, sells a horse liniment on the streets, or keeps a lemonade stand, the "local reporter" is very apt to dub him with the title of "doctor," and when the average man gets this title stuck on to him he is in great danger of assuming the *role*, and the community in which he lives is in real danger ever thereafter.

The Legislature of Missouri is the only source from which we may expect any relief in this matter. But the Legislature only represents and is a part of the people, and I hold it to be true that, however intelligent people may be concerning other matters, they do not seem to be capable of grasping and understanding this subject as they should. And yet I feel assured that if the two houses of our Legislature could be made to see and understand this evil as we do, and as by an united effort on our part they may be made to understand it, they would at once pass such a law as would amply protect society from the ravages of these human wolves. As a rule people are not slow to throw around themselves such protection as the necessities of the case demand, when they are once made to see the danger. When the law-making power and the people of Missouri

are once made to understand that the man who swindles them when they are sick is no better, and is entitled to no more consideration, than the one who swindles them when they are well, then may we look for such legislation as the magnitude of the evil requires.

Our present law is inadequate to protect the medical profession from the disgrace that quackery casts upon it, or the people from the evils and dangers of ignorant, vicious and incompetent practitioners. This law was enacted in March, 1874, but did not go into force until the following September. In the meantime all who were then (or contemplated) practicing were permitted to register. The weak points in this law are :

1st. It permitted anybody — whether qualified or not — to register. It was a sort of invitation to all, who ever expected to engage in any kind of humbuggery in connection with medicine, to come and begin at once. It did not pretend, through agents appointed under its provisions, to make inquiry as to the qualifications of those who should register.

2nd. It provided that, after September, 1874, every person registering should file a copy of his diploma, but made no provision against the filing of bogus diplomas, so that the operation of this law has rather tended to increase the sale of these false instruments. This law is still upon our statute books. During the session of 1880-81, another bill was drawn up by a committee of the St. Louis Medical Society and introduced in the lower house. There were two bills in fact—one creating a State Board of Health and one "To Regulate the Practice of Medicine and Surgery." The Board of Health bill created a board of five physicians and two citizens, the medical part of the board being taken from the different schools in the proportion of three Regulars and one each from the Eclectic and Homœopathic. This board was to have charge of state sanitation, and were to act as a Board of Censors in the regulation of the practice of medicine and surgery. All persons having diplomas

were to file copies — sworn to — before said board, and all persons who had practiced medicine in the state for more than ten years were to file a sworn statement of that fact certified by the affidavits of two citizens, which statement was to be accompanied by a fee of one dollar. All other persons were to present themselves before the board for examination and pay a fee of five dollars. The bill also gave the board the power to assess a fine of twenty dollars against any one presenting a bogus diploma.

A committee of the St. Louis Medical Society, with the Hon. Chas. W. Francis, Health Commissioner of St. Louis, some of the physicians at the State Capital and myself, constituted about all who worked for the passage of the bill outside of members of the Legislature. Being on the ground for a time, and going in person before the Special Committee to which the bill was referred, I was enabled to learn what the opponents of the bill, and of legislation of this kind in general, had to say. The main arguments were about as follows :

1st. "If the regulation of the practice of medicine and surgery is put into the hands of the doctors they will not treat each other fairly."

To this we answered : That in the hands of the medical profession is the place for the regulation of this matter. That no one, except a good doctor, can possibly know what the qualifications of a doctor are or ought to be ; and that no one, indeed, is capable of distinguishing between an educated physician and a quack, except an educated physician ; and further, that there is no more reason to suppose that doctors will mistreat each other than that lawyers—who regulate the admission of members into their profession—will do the same thing.

2nd. "That legislation of this kind is contrary to the broad principles upon which our government and our institutions are founded ; that a man has a right to practice medicine if he so desires, and all who wish to employ him have a right to do so."

To this we answered : That while at first glance this seems to be true, yet it is not true. A lawyer cannot practice in our courts, taking into his hands issues involving life and valuable property interests, without having been examined by a committee of lawyers. There are laws—national and state—regulating steamboat pilots and engineers in very much the same way. If life is to be protected by law when jeopardized in court, upon railroad trains and steamboats, why does it put such a strain upon the genius of our institutions when we wish to protect it from incompetency at the bedside in sickness ? If it is an infringement of a man's natural rights to refuse to permit him to *butcher himself with a quack doctor*, is it not then an infringement of these same rights when the law refuses to permit the druggist to sell him morphia and strychnia in suicidal doses ?

3rd. "That those who are practicing under the law of 1874 have '*vested rights*' which the law-making power has no right to disturb."

To this we answered : That while we did not profess to be lawyers and were not able to buy profound legal opinions, yet the law had assumed to regulate this matter in 1874, and its right to do so had not been questioned. If it had a right to regulate it, then it has a right to change the manner of its regulation whenever the necessity for such change becomes apparent. That a change in the law punishing three card monte, horse stealing, burglary and bigamy, perhaps disturbs somebody's '*vested rights*,' and yet such changes are made. That, in other words, quackery in medicine is a crime against the human race, and inflicts its mischief upon the weakest part of it—upon the physically, and often upon the mentally sick and suffering, and should, therefore, be stopped by law.

4th. "You cannot catch *all* of the quacks with any law, therefore, let them all go."

To this we answered : Apply the same argument to horse thieves, burglars and other criminals—if we cannot catch them all (and we cannot) then let them all go. We cannot

collect all the taxes that should be collected under an honest assessment, therefore do not collect any.

5th. "If people will employ quacks let them be humbugged."

To this we answered: We might use the same argument against three card monte and the patent churn swindler who has a note concealed in a printed contract, and yet we have a law against both. Men who could not be imposed upon by either of the above are daily imposed upon and swindled by quack doctors.

The bill, after having been somewhat modified and marred, passed the house, but was defeated in the senate.

The principal reason for its failure was owing to the fact that with the Board of Health Bill there was a clause appropriating ten thousand dollars with which to defray expenses. In the second place, there was not that unanimity amongst the better men in the profession that there should have been. Another reason for its failure was, that when it became known that such a bill was before the legislature every fellow with a *bogus diploma*, and every weak rascal who felt that he could not withstand the crucial test, wrote to his member and his senator, and in this way they set up such a howl that many of the representatives and senators were really impressed with the idea that the great majority of the profession was opposing the measure. If the good men in the profession were as active in the support of needed legislation as the bad ones are in their opposition, there would be but little trouble in procuring what we ask and what the state so much needs.

We must make up our minds, gentlemen, to agree upon some measure that will rid the state of this dangerous class of men, and then unite, as one man, in urging its passage.

We should unite in proposing such a measure as will commend itself to the legislature—a measure in which there shall not appear anything of selfishness upon the part of those proposing it. Let it be shown that we are not working for ourselves in this matter, but that our de-

sire is to protect the innocent, the ignorant and the suffering from ignorant pretenders and merciless sharks. While I do not wish to trench upon the grounds of the "Committee on Medical Legislation," I desire in conclusion to suggest what, in my opinion, should be the main features of the legislation that we should urge; and in doing so I shall recommend what is now the law of the State of Alabama, with some additional features which I deem necessary to the better enforcement and more perfect working of the law. Under this law the Medical Association of Alabama has attained a point far in advance of most of the other State Associations, as is shown by their annual transactions. Dr. Jerome Cochran, of Mobile—the father of the law—writes me that in the government of the profession in that state they "have the discipline of the regular army."

To accomplish what such a law should, i. e., eliminate from the medical profession all persons who are incompetent and unworthy, and to educate the others as highly as it is possible for them to be educated—the law should:

1st. Put the matter of the Regulation of the practice of Medicine and Surgery on a firm footing.

2nd. Do it in such a way that each school shall control its own adherents.

3rd. The law should be such as to indirectly compel the organization of County and District Medical Societies and of State Associations.

4th. A Board of Censors, elected by each County Medical Society, should be empowered to examine all the physicians in their county, and to grant certificates entitling them to practice when they are found to be qualified.

5th. The law should permit them to ignore the diplomas of all colleges.

This right to practice should extend only to the county in which the party resides—in other words it should not entitle him to *remove* to other counties and practice without first undergoing an examination there.

6th. The state associations should have a Board of Censors, to whom appeals could be made by parties who should be dissatisfied with their examination.

7th. In case there should not be a sufficient number of physicians in any county to form a society, they should have the power to form district societies and appoint their censors from such societies.

8th. The state associations should then be composed of delegates from the county and district societies.

9th. The constitution and by-laws of our association should be made to conform to law.

10th. The law should provide that in case any school failed, by a stated period, to organize an association, then the members of that school should be examined by a committee from those that are organized.

11th. Let the word "schools" be construed to mean Regulars, Eclectics and Homœopaths, and compel others, such as Hydropaths, Vitopaths, Electropaths, Rubbers, Spankers, Faith doctors, etc., to submit themselves for examination before a board of the schools mentioned.

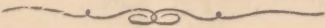
The first effect of such a law would be to drive about *one thousand* persons either out of practice or out of the state (the more *outs* the better), to stop about six or eight hundred more by reason of their rejection, and to scare five or six hundred more into taking a course of lectures, which they need badly. This would leave comparatively light work for the boards of censors.

Such a law would afford us a means of constantly increasing the general stock of knowledge, for the dissemination of valuable medical literature through these county, district and state associations. Give these associations the power to stop a man from practice from wrong doing, and you will not long complain of the state of things that I have detailed to you. You would soon find it true in this as in other things:

"The fear o' the rod's the hangman's whip
That hands the wretch to order."

I know it will be urged by some that this would only touch the quack portion of our school, and that the others would grant certificates to anybody and everybody. I scarcely believe this; but even if it were so, then let it be so, and let us clean out our own households and go before the people with an educated and upright body of men as a class, who shall have skillful and *clean* hands, and throw the responsibility of incompetency and quackery where it *would then* properly belong. This alone would soon settle the question as to so called medical schools in our state.

We should not expect perfection in the operation of such a law for several years, for it would necessarily work with some friction in the beginning. It takes work and time to bring anything like perfection. But men who have before them so grand an object as the rooting out of quackery and the elevation of the standard of the profession by the education of its individual members, can afford to wait and work, and hand down their work—unfinished though it may be—to those who shall come after them. For myself, permit me to say, that I have enlisted for life or during the war. Disappointment and defeat, to him who is in earnest, and believes his cause is just, are only incentives to stronger blows and harder work. Let me say, in conclusion, that I do not intend to lay down my arms or quit the fight until the mailed hand of the law is laid heavily upon every rascal who, in his ignorance and greed, daily puts precious human life in peril.



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